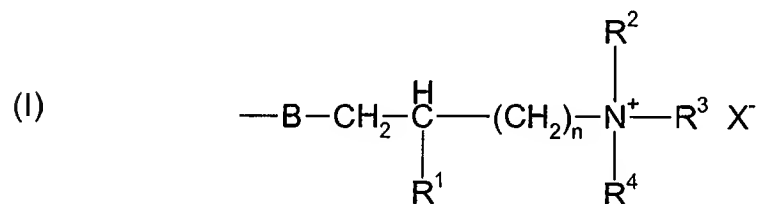


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A paper comprising a filler content of above 20 wt% based on the total weight of the paper and a cellulose ether, said cellulose ether having a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water.

2. (previously presented) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the quaternary ammonium groups are represented by the formula:

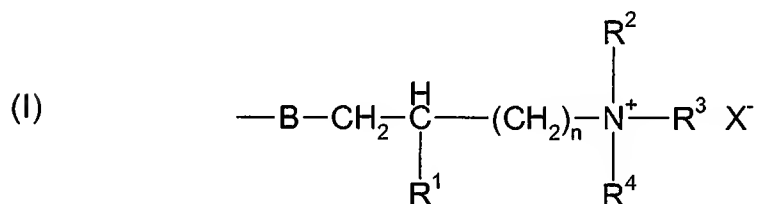


wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H or OH, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are the same or different and are selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkaryl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyalkyl, and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyaryl groups, or R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO<sub>3</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>, NH, or NR<sup>5</sup>, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyl or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl radical, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anion.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A paper coating comprising cellulose ether wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04 and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water.
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (previously presented) The paper coating according to claim 5 wherein said cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose.
9. (previously presented) The paper coating according to claim 8 wherein the quaternary ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein  $R^1$  is H or OH,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are the same or different and are selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{24}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{24}$  aralkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_{24}$  alkaryl,  $C_3$ - $C_{24}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{24}$  alkoxyalkyl, and  $C_7$ - $C_{24}$  alkoxyaryl groups, or  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring;  $n$  is an integer of 1 to 4,  $B$  is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO<sub>3</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>, NH, or NR<sup>5</sup>, wherein  $R^5$  is a  $C_2$ - $C_6$  acyl or a  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl radical, and  $X^-$  is an anion.

10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)

12. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A method of making paper comprising:

adding ~~at the~~ cellulose ether of claim 1 to an aqueous paper stock;

~~wherein said cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water;~~

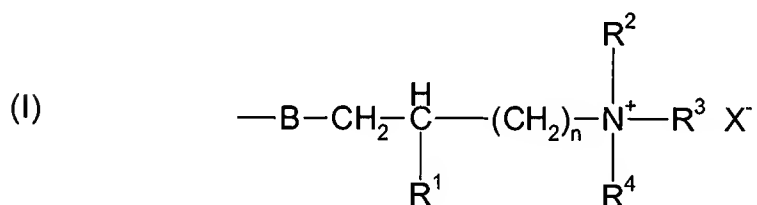
adding a filler to said stock;

removing water from said stock; and

drying said stock;

wherein the paper has a filler content above 20 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein said quaternary ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H or OH, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are the same or different and are selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkaryl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyalkyl, and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyaryl groups, or R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO<sub>3</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>, NH, or NR<sup>5</sup>, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyl or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl radical, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anion.

14. (New) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the paper has a filler content above 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.

15. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the paper has a filler content above 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.